

28 August 2025

Finalists Announced for the 2025 South Australian Training Awards

South Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector is once again in the spotlight, with the finalists of the 2025 South Australian Training Awards officially announced today.

Presented by the South Australian Skills Commission, the Awards celebrate excellence in VET across the state, recognising the achievements of apprentices, trainees, students, teachers, training providers, schools, and employers. This year's Awards attracted a record number of high-quality nominations across 14 categories – showcasing the depth of talent and commitment within the sector.

The Awards stand tall as the pinnacle awards program for vocational training in the state and lead directly to the Australian Awards.

The announcement comes during National Skills Week (25– 31 August), which is dedicated to raising the profile and status of skills and vocational learning and showcasing the career opportunities made possible by vocational training.

Winners will be announced at a prestigious Gala Presentation on Thursday, 25 September 2025, at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Winners in eligible categories will go on to represent South Australia at the 2025 Australian Training Awards, to be held in Darwin this December. They follow in the footsteps of South Australia's 2024 national award recipients, who proudly brought home four national titles and three runner-up honours.

This year's award has seen the introduction of the Adult Community Education (ACE) Provider of the Year – reflecting the vital role ACE plays in engaging learners and upskilling communities.

Voting is now open for the Voters' Choice Award, giving the public the opportunity to support their favourite individual finalist. Voting closes at 8:00pm on Thursday, 25 September 2025, with votes accepted right up until the announcement at the Gala Presentation—adding to the excitement of the evening.

For information about all the finalists, visit www.trainingawards.sa.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Blair Boyer

Over the next five years, nine out of ten jobs will require post-secondary education, with half of those jobs requiring vocational training.

A high-performing skills sector is critical to providing a skilled workforce in support of the major, multi-generational projects on the horizon in South Australia.

That's why we have invested significantly into non-government training providers, alongside TAFE SA, to ensure we have the skilled people ready to meet the demands of industry.

The South Australian Training Awards continue to provide an important opportunity to recognise the achievements of apprentices, trainees, students, training organisations, and employers.

Quotes attributable to Commissioner Cameron Baker, Chair of the South Australian Skills Commission

Congratulations to all the exceptional apprentices, trainees, students, trainers, training providers, and employers who have been recognised as finalists in this year's South Australian Training Awards.

As the state's most prestigious recognition of excellence in vocational education and training, the SA Training Awards continue to attract a high calibre of nominees. These finalists exemplify the strength of our VET system and its positive impact on individuals, industries, and communities across South Australia.

The Commission and I look forward to celebrating the achievements of all our finalists at the Gala Presentation. It will be a fantastic opportunity to bring together industry leaders and VET stakeholders to recognise and honour excellence in our state's skills sector.

2025 South Australian Training Awards Finalists

Individual Awards

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year	Name	Training Provider
	Callan McKenzie	TAFE SA
	Dimity Groth-Ross	TAFE SA
	Kiri Allen	Flight One School of Engineering
	Nyre Coffee	Australian College of Commerce & Management
Apprentice of the Year	Name	Employed by
	Bethany Jones	Adelaide Training and Employment Centre (ATEC)
	Kimberley Green	Programmed Skilled Workforce
	Lucian Nette	Self-Employed
	Toshi Ames	Maylands Hotel
	Zac McDonald	Trainee & Apprentice Placement Service Inc (TAPS SA)
School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year	Name	Employed by
	Jacob Watson	Watson Fitzgerald & Associates
	Jesse Goldner	Trainee & Apprentice Placement Service Inc (TAPS SA)
	Mikayla Dawson-Sincock	Career Employment Group Inc
	Saffron Rumbold	Clear Cut Carpentry
Trainee of the Year	Name	Employed by
	Amara Scheide	Maxima
	Georgia Stratton	BHP

	Lili O'Connor	Programmed Skilled Workforce
	Samuel Worley	Adelaide Oval SMA Ltd
Vocational Student of the Year	Name	Training Provider
	Jackson Burchell	Time Education & Training
	Julie-Anne Popple	Celtic Training
	Karen Haywood	Upskilled
	Stephanie Griffiths	genU Training
VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year	Name	Employer
	Anthony Julianto	Alliance College
	Cornelia Vahldieck	Quality College of Australia
	Fiona Saunders	Sureway Skills Training Pty Ltd
	Nicholas Stevens	Engage First Aid
Lifetime Achievement Award	Winner announcement at the Gala Presentation.	

Organisational Awards

Adult Community Education Provider of the Year	Community Access and Services SA
	Morella Community Centre
	Pooraka Farm Community Centre Incorporated
	SkillUp SA
Large Employer of the Year	BAE Systems Australia
	BHP
	RetireAustralia
Large Training Provider of the Year	Adelaide Training & Employment Centre (ATEC)
	MTA Training and Employment
	PEER Education Employment and Training
Small Employer of the Year	Barunga Village
	Bowhill Engineering

	Mid North Solutions	
Small Training Provider of the Year	ARO College	
	Ironwood Institute	
VET Innovation for Schools	Birdwood High School	
	Mitcham Girls High School	
	Playford International College	
	Woodville High School	
Industry Collaboration Award	Collaboration name	Key Partners
	Building Links and Build Your Career	South Australian Housing Trust SYC Ltd
	First Nations Foster and Kinship Carer Career Development Program	Aboriginal Family Support Service The Bradford Institute of Advanced Education Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers South Australia Kinship Care Program, Department for Child Protection Kornar Winmil Yunti Martinthi Aboriginal Kinship Service – Incompro Aboriginal Association and Uniting Care Wesley Bowden
	Pathways to Surveying: Building Futures through Education and Industry Collaboration	Alexander Symonds Cornerstone College Flinders University TAFE SA UniHub Spencer Gulf
	South Australian Government Technical Colleges	BAE Systems Australia BHP

		Goodstart Early Learning Local Health Networks, SA Health The Department for Education
--	--	--